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American Fern Society

The Treasurer of the Society, Mr. Fred. G. Floyd, having resigned from his position, it became my duty to appoint a successor. As Mr. Floyd considered it desirable that he be relieved of his duties as soon as possible, Mr. H. C. Bigelow, New Britain, Conn., consented to act temporarily as Treasurer. Later I appointed Mr. Jay G. Underwood, Hartland Vt., to fill out Mr. Floyd's unexpired term.

C. H. BISSELL, *Pres.*

The Council has received two applications for life membership, one of them accompanied by a tender of \$15 in payment. At present there is no clause in the Constitution covering this point, and any action taken must be by special vote of the Council. That there may be a general rule to be followed in such cases, it is proposed to submit at the next election an amendment, to be voted on by the members, providing an additional clause in the Constitution covering the point in question. The Council will be glad to receive suggestions from members as to the form this shall take to be for the best interests of the Society.

C. H. BISSELL, *Pres.*

The following order has been passed by the Council:—
“The Editor of the JOURNAL, Dr. Benedict, having informed the Council that he must either resign as editor or transfer some of the duties of his office to an assistant, and it being the opinion of the Council that Dr. Benedict's aid should be retained if possible, it is hereby ordered that until further action is taken by the Council, the editing of the JOURNAL be placed in the hands of

Dr. R. C. Benedict, Prof. E. J. Winslow and Mr. C. A. Weatherby, as joint editors, they to be at liberty to arrange the division of their work as may seem best to them."

The request for copies of the Fern Bulletin in the President's report has met with a generous response. Particularly noteworthy gifts are those of Mrs. W. F. Brooks, who has presented to the Society all of the rare early numbers of the Bulletin up to Vol. V, with one exception, and of Mr. J. R. Swinerton, who has given 26 numbers of the Bulletin, including Vols. VI-XI complete, and eight miscellaneous pamphlets relating to the Society. The number missing from Mrs. Brooks's set has been purchased and the Society now has a full set of Vols. I-XI of the Bulletin, with the exception of Vol. V, no. 2. If anyone knows where this number can be obtained, the Secretary will be glad to hear of it.

Other gifts, which are hereby gratefully acknowledged, are: From Mr. A. W. Driggs of East Hartford, Conn., 5 numbers of the Bulletin; from Mr. F. C. Greene, 6 numbers of the Bulletin and title-pages and contents of Vols. XII-XVI; from Mrs. M. A. Noble, 3 copies of officers' reports; from Mr. E. J. Winslow, 2 numbers of the Bulletin.

In connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at San Francisco, an informal meeting of the Fern Society will be held at Berkeley in the rooms of the Herbarium, Hearst Mining Building, University of California, at 2 P. M., Monday, Aug. 2nd. At this meeting Professor and Mrs. Hall, Dr. Badè, and, it is hoped, Mr. S. B. Parish and Mr. H. H. Tracy will be present to welcome eastern members and to arrange for field excursions on which

the local ferns may be seen in their haunts. Mrs. Hall writes: "Lest anyone be disappointed, I should like to say that 12 or 15 species are a good record here" for a day's trip. But all of them would be of interest to easterners. Mrs. Hall has very kindly undertaken to prepare a list of California ferns, with their localities, for the use of fern students travelling in the State and the specimens in the University herbarium may be consulted. The botanical excursions of the A. A. A. S. will be open to Fern Society members. Further information will be sent by the Secretary to all Pacific Coast members and to all others who will notify him of their wish to receive it.

In the East, a field meeting will be held in July, probably in the vicinity of Jamesville, N. Y. This region is the home of the hart's-tongue and of other unusual species, and is of the greatest interest geologically as well as botanically. Just now it has an especial appeal because the best localities for the hart's-tongue are threatened with destruction through the quarrying operations of a cement company and an active movement to preserve them as a State Park is in progress and is receiving the support of our local members. Exact details as to the meeting cannot now be given. Mr. James G. Scott, 123 West Price St., Germantown, Pa., is chairman of a committee to arrange for it and he will send definite information to all who will notify him that they think of attending.

One of the best known of American botanists, Dr. Charles Edwin Bessey, died at Lincoln, Neb., on Feb. 25, aged 69. Dr. Bessey was a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College and a pupil of Asa Gray, and had been Professor of Botany at the University of Nebraska since 1884. He was for many years the botanical editor

of *Science*, was a member and officer of many scientific societies and the author of a standard series of text-books and of numerous other books and articles, great and small. As a teacher of botany, he held an important place, not only because of his marked success in that work, but because in his earlier text-books he introduced into America ideas and methods which have led to present-day laboratory instruction. He was noted among his colleagues for his ready and kindly appreciation of the good in others' work; and he was a public-spirited citizen.

New Members—Mrs. Sidney Armer, 1329 Arch St., Berkeley, Cal.; Miss Louisa Blake, 50 West St., Worcester, Mass.; Prof. L. P. Breckenridge, 412 Humphrey St., New Haven, Conn.; Macy Carhart, Keyport, N. J.; Mrs. Orra Parker Phelps, Canton, N. Y.; Miss Maria F. Pratt, 4806 South Salina St., Syracuse, N. Y.; Paul C. Standley, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; R. W. Woodward, 22 College St., New Haven, Conn.

Wanted—Specimens of the following species of the Ophioglossales, as listed in the North American Flora: *Botrychium pumicola*, *boreale*, *californicum*, *Schaffneri*, *Coulteri*, *pusillum*, *Jenmani*, *alabamense*, *Underwoodianum*; *Ophioglossum reticulatum*, *Harrisi*, *crotalophoroides*, *tenerum*, *californicum*, *Engelmanni*; *Cheiroglossa palmata*. I would expect to make fitting compensation.—ROBERT A. WARE, 246 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.

Wanted—I will pay 10 cents per sheet for any North American pteridophytes not now in my collection, or will exchange. List of desiderata sent upon application.—L. S. HOPKINS, 525 E. Main St., Kent, Ohio.